



# Tri-Town Times

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## Police Contract Shows Raises, More Health Premium Sharing

MATT RITTENHOUSE  
**Tri-Town Times**

SANDOWN – The police union has been working without a contract since its last agreement with the town expired in 2009, but another agreement will come before voters this year at town meeting.

The union's wages have been frozen since 2009.

The proposed contract includes various wording changes, but the main difference lies in compensation.

The first year of the contract represents an increase to current year spending of \$5,911.99. It's a little confusing because the contract runs on a fiscal year and the town runs on a calendar year, but the total increased

cost for the contract, running from April 1, 2012 until March 31, 2013, is \$6,018.40. The next contract year totals \$8,802 and the third year's increases total \$9,037.11.

These increases are the result of both step increases within a predetermined wage matrix and cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increases. The first year has a 2.18 percent COLA and a 2.5 percent step, if the officer is eligible. The matrix includes all employees who have worked with the town for 10 years or less. In the second and third year, there are 1.5 percent COLAs and 2.5 percent steps.

The contract also has a stipulation that increases the minimum number of hours

for court and hearing appearances from three to four hours. Police chief Joe Gordon said most of the time the officers are at court for the four full hours, as court days are generally busy.

The contract also increases the probationary period for new employees from 30 to 60 days.

Including raises, the contract includes a \$1 a year increase in per hour detail costs, starting at \$34 an hour in the first year. This is a cost not borne by taxpay-ers, however, and is funded through use of the department's revolving fund set up for that purpose. The increases came through an effort to bring Sandown's rates in line with surround-

**continued on page 5**

## Hampstead School Board Urged to Fight HB 1201

PENNY WILLIAMS  
**Tri-Town Times**

HAMPSTEAD – School Board members heard about House Bill 1201, which would assess property taxes on Pinkerton Academy, with the money going to the Town of Derry, and about HB 543, which concerns objectionable material in public school courses.

The Pinkerton bill would remove the school's tax exemption and would require Pinkerton to be assessed property taxes on the market value of its property. The bill singles out Pinkerton Academy and does not involve other schools. It includes the following: "Any shortfall in revenue of the Derry Cooperative School District due to increased tuition costs resulting from this act shall be reimbursed and made

whole by the town of Derry."

The bill has no such protection for the sending towns to Pinkerton - Hampstead, Chester and in 2013, Auburn.

The board learned that the Chester School Board has committed to sending a letter expressing its objection and concerns about the bill to the Municipal and County Government Committee.

Hampstead School Board members were urged to contact their representatives and express their concern and opposition to the bill and to urge the representatives to vote against it. The board was told by Pinkerton's Executive Director of Public Relations and External Affairs, Chip Underhill, that emails and letters are one way to reach their representatives, but the most

effective is a phone call.

A hearing on the bill takes place Feb. 9 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 301 at the Legislative Office Building in Concord.

As the Derry School Board was meeting at the same time as Hampstead Tuesday night, Jan. 24, Underhill didn't know what position that board took, but Derry would be protected against increases in tuition resulting from the bill, while the sending towns would have to pay any resulting tuition increase.

The bill is sponsored by Representative Frank Saporito, R-Derry, with fellow Derry Republican Representatives Kevin Reichard, James Webb and John O'Connor signing on as well.

"There is no upside in this bill for Hampstead,"

**continued on page 8**



**HAVING A BALL** Lily Auger shows off her creation as she plays the part of the "Queen of Comedy" Lucille Ball during the culmination of her fourth grade class at Hampstead Central School's month-long project, celebrating famous people in history. See more photos on page 9.

*Photo by Chris Paul*

## Routes 102 and 121 Intersection Under Study

MATT RITTENHOUSE  
**Tri-Town Times**

CHESTER - In 2009, an annual average of 8,900 vehicles per day traveled on Route 102 south of its intersection with Route 121, and in 2010, 4,300 cars per day traveled east of that convergence on 121. And from Jan. 1, 2008 until July 1 of last year, the juncture had 24 accidents.

Those figures, according to the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP),

contribute to the intersection's being considered in the top 5 percent of New Hampshire locations that exhibit the most severe highway needs.

Led by the Highway Safety Committee and in conjunction with the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission (SNHPC), the state Department of Transportation (DOT) is reviewing the intersection and determining whether changes would be appropriate. On Jan. 20, representa-

tives of DOT, along with the Highway Safety Committee and private engineering firm CHA Company, met to discuss the intersection, see it first hand and consider potential changes.

A preliminary report from that meeting is due out later this month, hopefully in time for the committee's next meeting on Feb. 17.

Cynthia Robinson, Chester Planning Board representative to the committee, said that for years the inter-

**continued on page 10**

# Hampstead School Board Supports Eighth Grade Tour

PENNY WILLIAMS  
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD — With a ringing endorsement from the Pinkerton Academy student member of the School Board on the educational value of the proposed eighth grade spring vacation tour to Philadelphia and New York City, the Hampstead School Board voted to approve and support the trip.

Patrick Doolittle went on an eighth grade trip to Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., with eighth grade teacher Katie Wolff and credits that experience with motivating him to participate in the various contests he has entered since then, as well as steering him in the direction of community and local government involvement.

Wolff presented the board with her plan for a Philadelphia/New York tour for eighth grade students and their parents, to take place spring vacation. She said she had received such an exceptional tour offer

that she considered it worth bringing to the board. The two-day whirlwind tour with hotel and two meals was proposed by Foxx Tours at a per person cost of less than \$200.

The trip would begin early and bus the participants to Philadelphia, where they would visit the National Constitutional Center, Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. Then they would travel to Rutherford, N.J., for supper and a night at a

Hilton hotel. In the morning after breakfast, they would travel by ferry to the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and then on to New York City, to visit the Memorial at Ground Zero and the Empire State Building Observation Deck. They would board the bus and arrive back in Hampstead around 10 p.m.

Staff and their families are welcome to attend the trip, which requires a minimum of 40 paid participants.

"Even though these are tough economic times, I decided to see if this trip was sufficiently affordable to be of interest," Wolff told the School Board at its Tuesday, Jan. 24, meeting. "I have done lots of these trips and used this tour company before, and this is an outstanding value and will provide participants with lifetime memories. It is an awesome itinerary and very educational."

After hearing from Doo-

little, the board voted unanimously to approve the trip. The specific dates are still to be determined.

In other business:

• The Board voted to approve Assistant Superintendent Winfried Feneberg's moving ahead with the reclassification of Hampstead Middle School. Despite functioning as a middle school for more than three decades, the school is officially classified as an elementary school. Feneberg said the school

meets all the criteria for a middle school, and all that will be required is filling out the form and submitting it to the Department of Education. The reclassification will change nothing but the classification.

• Chairwoman Natalie Gallo rejected the minutes of the public hearing for the budget, and the board voted to have recording secretary Debbie Hoffman rewrite the minutes to better reflect what transpired.

# Sandown Forms Three-Town Library Coop

MATT RITTENHOUSE  
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN - Later this month the Sandown Public Library's patrons will not only have access to a new cataloguing system but to all the books in the Plaistow and Atkinson public libraries.

For about a year, the three towns have been working to establish the Southern New Hampshire Library Cooperative. Cooperative systems are popular across the country, but the three towns are helping to lead the way in creating the system for small towns in New Hampshire. Sandown

Library director Barbara Lachance and the library trustees are excited about the reception it will have from library users.

On Feb. 17, patrons will have access to a new catalogue that accesses all three libraries' holdings, books, CDs, audiobooks, movies, and magazines. The requested item will either be sent to the patron's home library or be held for pickup.

The new system also allows for an improved patron experience, said Lachance. By registering, patrons will be able to navigate the three libraries' hold-

ings and organize them into lists. The system will send users email notification when a selected item is available, as well as reminders about renewals. A comment feature will allow users to give recommendations or reviews of the books they've read, and while those comments can be kept private, they can also be made public through the social network aspect of the system.

"The searching capabilities are incredible," added Lachance. She lauded the benefits of the new system, especially the personal interaction patrons can have.

Current card holders at any of the three libraries just need to sign up online to gain access. In Sandown, visit: [www.sandownlibrary.us](http://www.sandownlibrary.us), click on the library catalogue section and follow the steps for online registration to set up a user account. New patrons must apply for a library card before registering.

Lachance said staff will be available to help patrons navigate the new system.

The Southern New Hampshire Library Cooperative started when Sandown realized its cataloguing system required replacement. Updates were unavailable from the vendor.

Sandown library trustee Tina Owens said the catalogue is the backbone of any library, and that Sandown operated for as long as possible with an "antiquated" system.

But updating a cataloguing system isn't cheap. Sandown was looking at a price tag of about \$13,000 for a new one, until conversations with Atkinson and Plaistow found that both those towns were in the same boat. They decided to purchase a catalogue together, a system that

allowed for a coop among the municipalities.

That cooperation saved Sandown \$5,500 on the purchase of the system, so it not only increases patrons' resources but saved the town money.

Owens, who is not only a trustee but has a background in library science, lauded the new system, as well as the work of the three boards of trustees and library directors.

Lachance had similar statements. "I have to say that the trustees worked very hard and were very dedicated," she said. "They saw a vision of the future and took the extra effort to form this cooperative and begin this endeavor."

Each town's patrons will receive preferred service in their town of residence. And each library will still buy new titles with their local patrons' preference in mind.

Lachance and Owens see the coop as potentially becoming much larger. They opted for the name "Southern New Hampshire Library Cooperative" instead of something more local in hopes that other towns will see the benefit of the system and join.

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recognize a  
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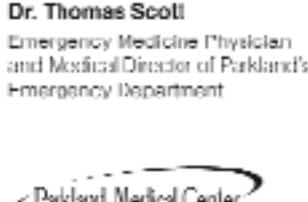
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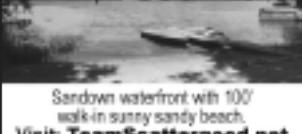
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# Final Visioning Session for Master Plan is Feb. 7

MATT RITTENHOUSE  
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN - Next week residents will have one of their last chances to provide input into the town's latest draft of the Master Plan through a visioning session the planning board will hold with the master plan advisory committee.

The master plan is intended to narrate what Sandown currently is, and what its residents see for its future. Through visioning, residents decide what should go into the master plan to guide the future they want for their town,

and will discuss how elected officials and boards should go about shepherding the town to that future. Visioning is a mandated part of all master plans in New Hampshire, and members of the planning board's master plan advisory committee have been working for over a year putting a new plan together with community input.

The town's master plan was updated in 2005 and is at: [www.sandown.us](http://www.sandown.us) in the planning board documents section. It serves as an inventory of Sandown, outlining everything from population to housing stock to

community facilities, while recommending how residents want to guide growth in those areas.

Goals are outlined in the document, and advisory committee chair Fred Daley said that while some goals have been met and will be removed, others remain, and residents will determine whether they remain realistic or desirable. Other goals may be added.

The advisory committee hopes to complete its revision by April, and after the next public input session will finish up the final draft for submission to the planning board. The planning

board would then hold a public hearing on the document before adopting it.

Daley said the group has been seeking input throughout the process and urged the public to come out on Tuesday, Feb. 7, to air their satisfaction, concerns and ideas. Department heads and community organizations are welcome as well.

Daley gave the example that Sandown's local pond associations might want to add input into the chapters on natural resources and general land use. Others might want to tell officials how they want recreation needs addressed, open

space preserved or public transportation encouraged.

A resident survey was sent out earlier in the process, and about 5 percent of households weighed in. Daley said it was a decent response, given the difficulty of such initiatives, but the committee was always looking for more input.

One of the results of that survey is that residents want to preserve the rural character of town.

According to the law that governs the Master Plan, "The purpose of the master plan is to set down as clearly and practically as possible the best and most

appropriate future development of the area under the jurisdiction of the planning board, to aid the board in designing ordinances that result in preserving and enhancing the unique quality of life and culture of New Hampshire, and to guide the board in the performance of its other duties in a manner that achieves the principles of smart growth, sound planning, and wise resource protection."

The visioning - just an informal discussion - will take place at Town Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. Snow date is Thursday, Feb. 9, same time and place.

# Seats Remain Open for Sandown, Timberlane Offices

MATT RITTENHOUSE  
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN - With the filing deadline for March elections nearing - it is Friday, Feb. 3 - on the town side, incumbent Bruce Cleveland and former member Jon Goldman are run-

ning for two seats open on the budget committee, Rosemarie Bruno will seek another term as a supervisor of the checklist, incumbent Tina Owens and Louise Pajak filed for the two library trustee seats, incumbents Dave Cheney and Mike Devine are seeking to

fill the two seats open as fire engineers, incumbent Ed Mencis is seeking one of two seats open on the planning board, Thomas Latham is running for cemetery trustee, and Michelle Short will be looking to keep her job as town clerk/tax collector.

Seats still awaiting candidates are: a three-year selectmen seat; three-year treasurer, two-year moderator, and one three-year trustee of the trust fund.

File for open town positions at the town clerk's office until Friday Feb. 3, at 5 p.m. The office will be

open on Feb. 3 from 3 to 5 p.m. for sign-ups only.

On the Timberlane

Regional School District side, three candidates have announced for the single three-year school board seat, while no one has yet filed for the single three-year budget committee seat.

Kelly Ward, Cathy Lisi and Roger Barczak have signed up to run for the school board seat.

Filing period for the school district runs until Feb. 3 at 5 p.m. File at the superintendent's office at 30 Greenough Road in Plaistow.

# Feb. 3 Deadline Nears for Hampstead Candidate Filing

PENNY WILLIAMS  
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - Neither the Town Clerk nor the School District Clerk has been swamped with people wanting to sign up for open seats in the March 13 elec-

tion.

Incumbent Rick Hartung and Robert Charles Davis are running for the open seat on the Board of Selectmen, and incumbent Neil Reardon has signed up to run for Town Moderator. Incumbent Jeffrey Mackey

is running for a seat on the Trustees of the Cemeteries, and incumbent Pam Hartung has signed up to run for a six-year term as Supervisor of the Checklist. Incumbent Emily Reschberger has signed up to run for Library Trustee.

Paul Carideo, Neil Emerson, Paul Wentworth, Derrick Moyer, and Chris Dane are running for two seats on the Planning Board.

By press time Tuesday, three positions were still

without a candidate - the Budget Committee, Trustees of the Trust Fund and Chief of Police.

On the School District side, Jim Stewart signed up for the two-year seat open

on the School Board, and incumbent Greg Hoppa signed up for a three-year School Board seat.

Interested parties have until 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, to file their candidacy.

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# Editorial

## The Big Day

Gearing up for the big day? We don't mean Super Bowl Sunday.

This week and next bring town and school deliberative sessions, and those should be circled dates on the calendar, just as much as the annual Super Bowl party.

We have the unusual opportunity, as New Hampshire residents, of being able to express our views in a forum specifically designed for that purpose, and to offer changes to the articles up for vote if we deem that necessary. Remember, it's the articles that come out of deliberative session that we will be voting on in March by secret ballot, and their wording – thanks to action at deliberative session - may not be the same as what we started with.

The deliberative is a hybrid animal – no up or down voting on an article takes place, as it would at the old-style Town Meeting, but voters – no quorum required - can propose and vote on amendments to the article, thus altering what goes on the ballot in March.

And that's a powerful position for a voter to have.

Of course, it's only a position of power if we choose to exercise it.

Staying home conveys no power at all. And changes in warrant articles are often determined by a small cadre of voters with a specific agenda.

That's why it's so important not only to attend deliberative session, but to stay for the duration. In some towns, that takes an hour or so. Other sessions hang on for four or five hours. And in some, it can mean 10 or 11 hours of your free time.

But think about it. One Saturday or one evening a year? That's not so much to ask.

Go to a deliberative, and you have the ability to change a town or school budget up or down. To cut back or increase road spending.

But only if you bother to attend.

Put your town's deliberative session on the calendar. You won't regret going. But if you don't go, you just might have quite a bit to regret.

You'll get used to the deliberative, and it will become part of your winter routine. All you need to do is pay attention as the moderator explains the rules, and read the proposed warrant articles. It's another step in being an informed citizen. Then get down to the business of participatory democracy.

### Yes on Article 7

To the editor:

Opportunity is knocking. Hampstead voters have a chance to gain a voice in the budget process. This year you will be asked to decide whether or not to impose a 2 percent tax cap on the way our schools fund themselves.

The School Board and the Superintendent's Office, SAU 55, are opposed. Their argument is, so far, that the overall quality of education will be compromised and restricted funds would make them lazy about spending carefully, ending or reducing the return of any surplus each year. Consider this when you vote.

The Superintendent and his staff have higher salaries than 90 percent of their peers. Only four Districts out of nearly 100 earn more. Teachers in Hampstead earn 10 to 15 percent over the state average. The national average of para-professionals is 13 per 100 students. We have 22 per 100, and they stay on the payroll even if the student they assist leaves the District.

Student population is declining. Since 2007 they have asked for and received more than \$110 million and given us "Schools in Need of Improvement" by federal standards.

There is a teachers' contract ahead of us. How much more can you give?

Vote yes on Article 7 on the School Warrant.

Bob O'Brien  
Hampstead

### Ode to a Coach

To the editor:

Teacher. Mentor. Coach. Three words often associated together, especially at the high school and college levels. Ralph Van Nostrand, former boys' volleyball coach at Pinkerton Academy, passed away this weekend. He was my favorite teacher, my favorite mentor, my favorite coach.

# Letters

I somehow made Coach Van Nostrand's team my freshman year, despite never having played volleyball once in my life. My previous athletic endeavors hadn't gone very well, and it meant a lot that this man who had constructed a championship-winning machine believed in me. He did more than believe. He worked through practices to make sure that every player on his team, from the most talented senior to the greenest freshman, improved from the beginning of the year to the end. It was because of him that I got better and still continue to play volleyball 12 years after first learning the game.

Coach Van (that's what all his players called him) cared about us more than just as a team and our win-loss record. He worked as part of Pinkerton's Guidance Department and was extremely instrumental in helping me out with my college search. He was able to understand the balance of what a 17-year-old wants when looking at a college and what he or she should be looking for.

As a coach, Ralph Van Nostrand was firmly out of the old school. He believed that the harder you worked in practice, the more it paid off in a game. When we slacked off, he let us know about it. When we were at the top of our game, he let us play without being overbearing.

I remember a game at Masconic where our team was so uninformed that after one particularly ugly point, he screamed and snapped his clipboard in half. That woke us up and we eventually won the game. As a gift at the end of the year, we got him a new one, a joke he definitely appreciated.

To know the impact Coach Van had, all you needed to do was to show up to one of our alumni matches. There you would see players from almost

every team he had ever coached, taking on a group going through all the same lessons we had. He helped grow the sport to where it is now recognized by the NHIAA, and he helped me and other alumni grow as players and as men.

Thank you, Coach Van, for everything.

Ben Altsher  
Hampstead

### Sandown Road Maintenance

To the editor:

I am writing this letter as a taxpayer, not as a Budget Committee member.

There has been much healthy discussion around the road improvement warrant article, and while \$450,000 is a lot of money (anytime), I hope my fellow residents will look toward the future and recognize the value to Sandown's homeowners in protecting our investment in the community and to our individual property values (who wants to buy a house anywhere when you have to access bad roads to get home).

The proposed cost of this year's road maintenance is about 76 cents for every \$1,000 in property valuation. My concerns if we don't approve this funding are twofold: 1) There will be zero dollars available to repair any roads in 2013, so no roads will be repaired. 2) Delaying maintenance will result in even higher costs for the same road repairs due to increasing materials and labor costs, combined with more deterioration when we do decide to fix them.

When considering how you will vote, I encourage you to keep in mind that while it may not be the road in front of your house today, it will be your street at some point in the future, and to please vote Yes on article 7. Thank you.

Bruce Cleveland  
Sandown

# Tri-Town Times



The Tri-Town Times is a weekly publication. It is mailed to every home in the towns of Chester, Hampstead and Sandown free of charge.

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# Sandown Hopes to Update Town Emergency Plan

MATT RITTENHOUSE  
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN – In an effort to update an out-of-date emergency operations plan, new emergency management director Brian Chevalier asked for and received approval from the board of selectmen to cover the expense, if legally allowed to do so.

Chevalier, along with fire chief Bill Tapley and police Sgt. Scott Wood, met with the board of selectmen to outline the \$10,000 project, \$5,000 of which will come back to the town through grant money for contractor services. The other portion can be met by soft money contributions from the town, so though

the town needs to front a total of \$5,000 for the project, the cost by the end should be zero.

And while Chevalier conceded that it was a difficult time to ask for those funds, seeing that deliberative session was just around the corner and it wasn't itemized in the budget, he urged the board to do so by citing the benefits of that cost.

Aside from having an updated emergency operations plan, the proposal allows the town to apply for applicable grants, one of which is already under review.

"When I say it's out of date, it's out of date," said Chevalier about the plan, which was approved 16

years ago. "There are things in there that don't exist anymore."

To start the process, Chevalier needed assurances from the board that \$2,000 would be available to get the process moving. While board members expressed agreement with going forward, they weren't positive they could legally allot that money, seeing that the sum was not included in the budget. They tentatively agreed to provide the money, pending a review of the legality of the move.

"I know it's short notice," said Chevalier, adding that it came as a surprise how much was involved in the update. Last week, fire department officials met with the state to

determine what needed to be accomplished.

Tapley said the plan was mandated through the state by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and that such a plan has become increasingly important since the attacks of Sept. 11. Tapley said that while the town could feasibly update the plan in-house, it made more sense to get expert help to make sure it's done as correctly and as efficiently as possible.

Board members expressed confidence in Chevalier, a former selectman, noting how much he accomplished in the position since starting earlier this year.

In other business at Monday night's meeting:

• The board approved Matthew Turner's Eagle Scout project. Turner is looking to create a replacement fence along the road flanking Center Cemetery. He received unanimous support for the plan. Turner hopes to raise about \$1,000 for the fence and its construction.

• The board held off on a bulk electricity purchase with White Columns Office Solutions, citing confusion with the contract language required for receiving that energy through a third party. While selectmen Steve Brown and Jim Devine

said that buying energy through a third party was acceptable and that legal language was by its nature difficult to understand, the rest of the board wanted clarification before moving forward.

Tad Dziemian of White Columns met with the board the previous week to explain the process, and will be asked back. The board has received letters from White Columns' other clients that recommended the service. Dziemian estimated that the savings to the town would be around \$3,100 in the first year.

## Police

continued from page 1

ing communities.

Also, a notable burden taken off taxpayers is the union's agreement to pick up a larger percentage of healthcare premium costs. While union members have stayed at a 4 percent contribution since 2009, the first year of the new contract states that will double to 8 percent. In the following years, the increase goes to 12 percent and then to 15 percent.

Regular, non-union town employees currently cover 10 percent of their premiums. In 2009, the contribution went from zero to 5 percent and in 2010, another 5 percent was tacked on.

Gordon, not a union

member, expressed comfort with the contract and hoped voters would support the agreement.

"I support the contract. It's time to move it forward," said Gordon. He noted that it was important to give employees proper incentives, not only to keep them with the town, but because employees who think they are being adequately rewarded for their work are apt to be better workers. He also noted that officers have stayed with the department since 2009 with no pay increases.

"We have a good group of people," said Gordon, noting that retention of a quality workforce is less expensive than rehiring, especially in the police force, where training is time

consuming.

Selectman negotiator Tom Tombarello has aired similar views on the contract and said he hopes voters get behind the agreement.

Tombarello worked with selectman Brenda Copp on the negotiations this year and with former chair Nelson Rheaume last year.

Tombarello noted that the negotiations with union representatives and officers Chris Rothwell and Richard Buco went well, and the group met about eight times. He called the resulting contract fair.

"It's good for the town and good for the morale of the guys," said Tombarello. "It lets the guys know that they're wanted by the town. It's an incentive."

Tombarello has also noted that the cost of attorney's fees for negotiations, a tab picked up by taxpayers, totals more than \$8,000 this year, a sum replicated last year. As a result, the cost for the first year of \$6,000 in wage increases costs about \$17,000. He said that if the contract fails, legal counsel benefits because the negotiations are going to come up again.

cludes Friday, Feb. 3, at 5 p.m. Contact district clerk Bob Grimm at 548-8292 if interested in running. Applications to run for school board can also be found at the district office at Chester Academy or at 174 Lane Road.

MATT RITTENHOUSE  
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – At press time Tuesday, no one had filed for the sole open school board seat, currently held by Royal Richardson. Its term is for three years.

The filing period con-

## Have an Announcement?

This service is provided free of charge to local residents who wish to announce the birth of their child or grandchild, marriage engagement, wedding or milestone event such as a Silver Wedding Anniversary. This is a great way to share your news with your local community. The Tri-Town Times also accepts obituary notices. Please contact us at 537-2760 or e-mail to [tritowntimes@nutpub.net](mailto:tritowntimes@nutpub.net).

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# Neighbor's Phone Call to Police Leads to Arrest

MATT RITTENHOUSE  
Tri-Town Times

SANDOWN - The Police Department has been making efforts this year at establishing better communication with residents through its Community Outreach Program, and recently that effort is thought to have helped lead to an arrest.

On Wednesday, Jan. 25, a neighbor in the area of Hollow Oak Road and Cobblestone Lane called the department to alert them of suspicious activity. Though it's a quick phone call and callers can remain anonymous, police say residents, upon seeing suspicious activity, are reluctant to call them and are afraid to both-

er them with a false alarm. Officers want those calls, however, and would much rather respond to a false alarm than learn later that they missed a burglary or other crime.

On Jan. 25, a resident noted a suspicious car out front and called the police. That call led to an arrest on an outstanding motor vehicle

offense of a driver previously arrested in connection with local burglaries and other offenses. Jamie Wells, 36, of Hollow Oak Road was arrested for operating a motor vehicle without a license.

Chief Joe Gordon emphasized that this was an instance where a call to the police resulted in an arrest, and he was appreciative of

that community help.

In January, the department held the first meeting of its Community Outreach Program. About 60 residents from the northwest quadrant of town - a section that includes Hollow Oak and Cobblestone - came out to the Ed Garvey Recreation Building to air their concerns and speak with police.

The next outreach meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 13, at 6:30 p.m. Visit the link off [www.sandown.us](http://www.sandown.us) for a full list of streets for this meeting.

Though a homicide was discovered earlier this month on Hollow Oak and is currently under investigation, Gordon said the two instances were unrelated.

# Chester Transfer Station Brings in Most Profits Yet

MATT RITTENHOUSE  
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER - The Chester Transfer Station saw its best profits ever last year, according to recycling and solid waste committee

member Andrew Hadik.

While some payments for recyclables are still outstanding, Hadik recently told the board of selectmen that it had been the town's most successful year to date, bringing in about

\$21,500 in net profit.

The previous high profit was a little over \$9,000.

He said 341 tons were recycled, or 38 percent of the total waste stream. The payment totals about \$65 per ton.

Hadik said 554 tons of trash were not recycled, costing the town about \$64,000, or \$116.25 per ton.

In 2010, 37.6 percent of the town's waste was recycled, or 314.3 tons. The previous year, 308.6 tons or 36.7 percent was recycled, and in 2008, 332 tons recycled, or 38.4 percent of the waste stream was recycled.

In 2007, 376 tons was recycled, for 41.3 percent.

Recycling is lauded by

the committee for both its environmental and tax reduction impacts.

The state and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have set a 40 percent minimum recycling goal for all municipalities.

## OBITUARY

### Jason Brown

Jason Brown, 37, of Derry, formerly of Hampstead, died Jan. 25, 2012 at Parkland Medical Center in Derry after a brief heart ailment.

He worked in Derry.

He is survived by his father, Donald Brown, and stepmother, Jacqueline Brown, of Chester; a brother, Jonathan Brown; a stepsister, Jessica Replogle; step-brothers Aaron and Joshua Sakash; and his friend, D.J. Minor of Hampstead. He was predeceased by his mother, Margaret Brown.

There are no calling hours. A private family service will be held at a later date.

# Lost Cat Reunited with Family

PENNY WILLIAMS  
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - The Hampstead Animal Control Officer received a joyful call after the Tri-Town Times appeared in residents' mailboxes last week. Sheila Johannessen said the owner of a lost cat that had been rescued from a tree recognized him from the photo published in the newspaper.

"Max went home to his owner," Johannessen said. "I received a call from Whitney, telling me she saw her

cat in the paper. I asked how she knew it was her cat and she replied, 'by his black mustache under his nose.' Whitney and her dad, Dennis Kivley, were reunited with Max. Max lives on Lancaster Street, which is the next street over from Baywood, where he was rescued from his stay up in the tree."

As previously reported, Johannessen received a call on Tuesday, Jan. 17, about a cat stuck in a tree. The caller told her the family dog had chased a cat up the

tree on Baywood Drive and it had been up there for two days. Johannessen contacted Devil Tree Services owner Greg Schlichti, who brought the cat down safely at no charge. The cat was transported to Edgefield Animal Hospital, where he was found to be a little dehydrated but otherwise in surprisingly good condition.

While being reunited with his owners is the best outcome for Max and his family, Johannessen had a suggestion to pet owners.

"Micro Chipping is so

important," she said. "If Max had had a micro chip, he would have been reunited with his family sooner rather than later. We recommend if you let your cats out, that they have a micro chip. Collars on cats worn outside can present an entanglement danger and could also be lost. There have been numerous complaints of 'stray cats' this year, most of which were not stray cats but cats that might just be wandering the neighborhoods. There are no Hampstead ordinances that prohibit cats from roaming."

Missing or lost cats can be reported by calling 329-5700.



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# Scouts Recognized by Hampstead Board of Selectmen

PENNY WILLIAMS  
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - At a recent Selectmen's meeting, town resident Jim Whitney, who serves as Nutfield District Unit Commissioner, Nutfield Eagle Board, Troop 412 CM (Derry) and Crew 121 Advisor (Hampstead), presented two plaques bearing the names of Scouts who have achieved their Eagle or Gold designation.

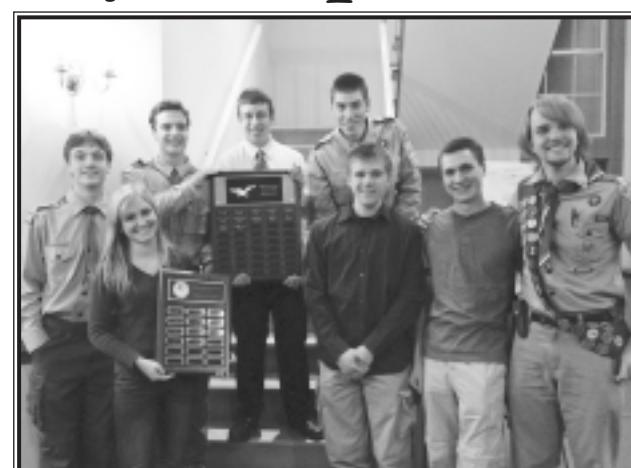
The Boy Scout Eagle plaque was for Hampstead Boy Scouts who were members of troops in towns other than Hampstead. The other plaque recognizes Hampstead girls who have earned their Gold Award.

Whitney thanked the town for its history of support for scouting and noted that when working on their Eagle or Gold projects, the

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts return service to the community.

The plaques were hung in the Town Hall foyer along with a plaque already hanging and bearing the name of Hampstead Eagle Scouts from local troops. The selectmen said they wished to thank all Scouts for what they do for the town.

Eagle Scouts present that evening included Brett Hamel of Chester Boy Scout Troop 163, who placed a new Veterans Memorial in front of Town Hall with the names of Hampstead's veterans from the Gulf War forward; Matt Tyson of Troop 98, who worked with the Conservation Commission



improve the archery range at the Bear Brook State Park; Jake Whitney of Troop 412 in Derry, who outfitted a Children's Waiting Room at

Boston's Children's Hospital; John Kirk of Chester Troop 163, who built and installed picnic tables at the Wason Pond Conservation

and Recreation area in shop at Pinkerton's Stock-Chester; Nathan Sarapas, who worked on the Conservation Trails signs, particularly the Wildflower Trail, and helped with a Conservation Trails brochure; Cameron Weatherby, who put in a new path and bench and cleared up the area around point of interest number five on the Conservation Trails, and Bianca Nicolosi, who interviewed Hampstead veterans and recorded their stories in a PowerPoint presentation.

Also noted were Billy Conte of Troop 33 of Hampstead, who started his Eagle Scout project in early November - the construction of a new pedestrian bridge on the Hampstead Conservation Trail located off Cambridge Road. Lauren Swymer did her Gold Award project by giving a work-

shop at Pinkerton's Stockbridge Theatre on understanding deafness. She also produced a video and slide show for the workshop. Gilliam Fairchild organized a mini concert series and collected more than 70 CDs to build a music library for senior citizens at a local nursing home.

Kim Guest said she had been a Girl Scout leader in Hampstead for 13 years. The Hampstead troop is part of the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains Council. She noted Sarah Delcore as a recent Gold Award Girl Scout as well.

"Today there are very few Girl Scouts, which is very sad for me to hear, and we have no active local leaders," she said. "So there's not a lot of Girl Scout activity in town right now."

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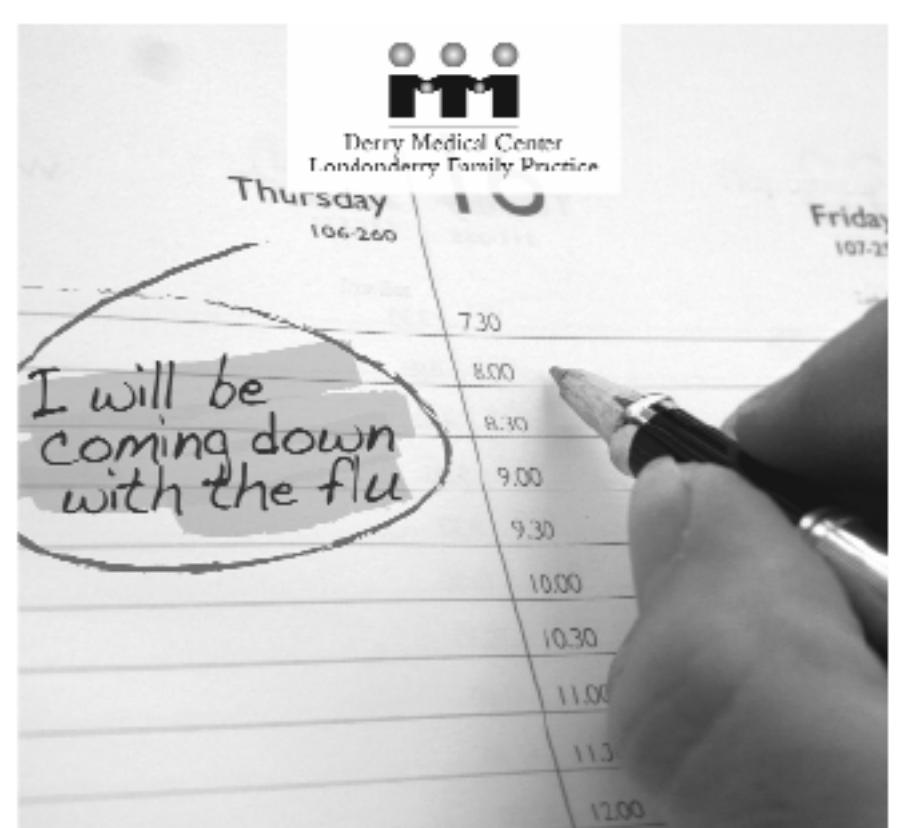
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# Selectmen Consider Maintenance Projects for Town

MATT RITTENHOUSE  
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER – The selectmen have been busy at their meetings of late collecting budgets from various departments, and as part of that review, the board looked over selectman maintenance liaison Joe Castricone's suggestions for projects to be done in the new fiscal year.

Castricone said the town needs to keep up on maintaining its infrastructure because the cost to replace items instead is much higher. He added that he compiled the projects but it was up to the board to tell him which they think should get done this year. Castricone's

term is up this year and he's indicated that he will not be running for re-election, but said the projects needed to get done one way or another.

Castricone brought the numbers, projects and costs he considers appropriate for the coming year to the Thursday, Jan. 26, meeting, and despite selectman Mike Weider's challenging him on the appropriateness of some of those projects, the board, led by selectman Jack Cannon, chose five as top priorities.

The maintenance department has been compiling projects, both long term and short term, with help from local contractors and building inspector Thom

Roy.

Potential projects included replacing bulbs and ballast for the lights in the multi-purpose room (MPR), replacing the copper piping at the Wason Pond Community Center, repairing a leaking post office roof and painting one side of that building, painting the peeling areas of Stevens Memorial Hall, fixing or replacing the boiler in the Wason Pond Community Center, repairing the boiler at Stevens Hall, replacing the town alarm system, replacing the town hall phone system, securing the barn at Wason Pond, paving the town hall and Stevens Hall parking lots, painting town hall and replacing rotting

out MPR doors.

The board decided that some of the projects, including repairing MPR lights and replacement of the copper piping, could be done out of the current year's budget. The Wason Pond barn had been secured already, said Castricone.

According to Castricone, the water at the Community Center continually tests positive for lead and the plan is to replace the copper piping and its lead solder with plastic piping. Estimates for that project total \$1,400.

Projects that selectmen asked Castricone to investigate more closely and get more solid costs for including fixing the post office

roof, painting Stevens Hall, repairing the heating systems at Stevens and the Community Center, and replacing the MPR doors.

The rough estimate for all of those projects is \$30,000, but that number will be refined.

The board also discussed the best way to fund those projects, whether to include them all in a warrant article, place them in the budget or fund them with surplus.

Some concern was aired on putting them in a warrant article, given the fact that should the article fail to pass, the projects would have to wait another year before being tackled. Other suggestions were to place

the money in the budget and in a warrant article and indicate that should the article pass, the money would be removed from operating expenses.

"There's a lot of ways to skin this cat, I agree," said Cannon. "Not doing them is the problem."

Castricone thanked the board for its support of the projects.

The board also gave a quick look over budgets for town clerk, tax collector, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Wason Pond Community Center, Bath House and Commission, and Stevens Hall, and briefly reviewed warrant article suggestions from department heads.

## Conservation Commission Legislation Continues Through House

PENNY WILLIAMS  
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD – Conservation Commissions and the funding they receive from the Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) in particular have come under attack by several legislative bills this session. However, one bill, HB1512, has been withdrawn by its sponsor.

That leaves HB1515, a bill that seeks to prohibit Land Use Change Tax dollars from being funneled to Conservation Commissions as well bringing sweeping changes to the Current Use

Law itself. According to the New Hampshire Municipal Association, when the bill was heard Jan. 17, it faced considerable opposition, and the House Municipal and County Government Committee voted 17-0 to recommend it as "inexpedient to legislate." The full House still must take action on the bill.

HB1545, which specifies that conservation commissions do not have the power to convey interests in real property that they receive or acquire and would limit Conservation Commission contracts to manage inter-

ests in real property to a term of five years, is the subject of a public hearing on Thursday, Feb. 2, at 9:30 a.m. in the Legislative Office Building, Room 301, in Concord. That will be followed by a public hearing on HB1586 at 10:30 a.m. in the same room. HB1586 would require a town's Board of Selectmen to hold public meetings before land could be acquired for conservation purposes.

Finally, HB1540 would not allow the state or any of its subdivisions to grant conservation easements on public land to a non-profit

organization. The hearing for this bill heard opposition from such organizations as the Department of Environmental Services, New Hampshire Fish and Game and the Audubon Society.

The Hampstead Conservation Commission is keeping an eye on these bills and

its chairman, Tim Lovell, has been in touch with the State Representatives in Rockingham County District 8 to make them aware of the bills and to register his and the Hampstead Conservation Commission's opposition to them. He said he has asked his representatives to vote against the bills.

A conservation commission is the only local board that is focused exclusively on protecting the natural resources of a municipality. Without a conservation commission, planning for this protection falls to other boards that do not have that as their primary responsibility.

## HB 1201

**continued from page 1**

said Assistant Superintendent Winfried Feneberg.

Former state legislator and present board member Vivian Clark said the bill as written in her opinion is unconstitutional. Because of her past legislative experience, the board asked Clark to write the letter to the Municipal and County Government Committee from the board. Chairwoman Natalie Gallo said each board member should take responsibility for contacting the Hampstead Rockingham County District 8 Representatives by personal letter or

phone call to ask them to vote against it.

Feneberg said the implications of HB 543, which is now law, appear significant. It would allow a parent to object to a specific material being used in a curriculum,

and the school would have to provide that student with an alternative. He said he could envision scenarios when this would disrupt an entire class and a decision would have to be made whether to move the student to another location for the alternate material, which would likely require additional staff.

The bill requires school districts to adopt a policy

allowing an exception to specific course material based on a parent's or legal guardian's determination that the material is objectionable. This took effect Jan. 1 and became law over the Governor's veto.

"This is probably a bill that didn't receive letters of objection or calls to vote it down," he said. "I am concerned about how wide the impact of this law could be. This is laden with questions and we must develop a policy, even though we aren't sure what it means or how it can be done. We are in contact with other district administrations and will be working on this."

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## FAMOUS FOLKS

Parents packed the fourth-grade classroom last Friday at Hampstead Central School as a wide variety of famous people from history were on display, as students' month-long project came to a close. Pictured at left, Isaac Moseley dresses as Neil Armstrong. Center, Marley Mailloux, Isa Lamers, and Olivia True gather as Albert Einstein, Betsy Ross and Dr. Seuss. At right, Hunter Mullane plays the part of Walt Disney.

Photos by Chris Paul

# Residents Urged to Display Easily Seen House Numbers

PENNY WILLIAMS  
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD — Hampstead has issued a Public Service Announcement designed to raise residents' awareness of the importance of displaying easily seen and accurate house numbers.

The town has gone through the E911 address mapping process to update and have available the accurate addresses of Hampstead residents so that when they had occasion to call 911, the correct address would be immediately available and the service required could be delivered to the address as quickly as possible.

But all street numbers in town are not easily visible, especially at night, and when they aren't visible,

emergency responders have to slow down and sometimes stop and hunt for the right address, wasting minutes that could spell the difference between life and death.

To that end, the town's public safety departments are encouraging residents to make sure their home address is properly displayed so it can be easily seen by emergency responders.

Public safety officials say the house numbers should be clearly visible from the street, with the number on

both the house and mailbox.

Fire Chief Michael Carrier said, "It is extremely important that we are able to quickly identify a home or business address, as time is of the essence in the outcome of the incident. A fire will double in intensity every minute it is burning. For a person in cardiac arrest (not breathing and no pulse), brain damage can occur within four to six minutes if oxygen is not administered with EMS (emergency medical services) intervention."

Officials said the house numbers should be visible from either direction of travel on the street. The numbers should be a contrasting color to the home and mailbox, and should be at least 4 inches tall. They should be illuminated at night by exterior lighting; reflective numbers are also helpful. And emergency response officials say that when people call 911 at night, they should turn on an outside light.

Kris Emerson, Hamp-

stead's Chief Health Officer, Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer, said the importance of having an address number clearly displayed is critical to ensure that emergency responders can find the right house.

"Some towns enforce this but it is very difficult to enforce, and we are just appealing to people to take the extra step to make sure their numbers are accurate and visible, so that when they need an emergency

service, responders can find them as quickly as possible," he concluded.

"From my point of view," Emerson added, "the street numbers make for a much safer community. In the building department, our goal is to always build a safer community. Emergency response personnel are able to respond quicker to assist our residents, and our inspectors are able to locate properties easier when they are responding to an inspection request."

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# Hampstead Anti-Bullying Committee Keeps Working

PENNY WILLIAMS  
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - Hampstead Middle School is actively dealing with bullying by implementing the Olweus Anti-Bullying Program, but by far, the administration and staff see the student-motivated Anti-Bullying Committee (ABC) as the front-runner in the battle to stem bullying incidents and improve the school's overall culture.

The ABC is a seventh and eighth grade student committee, with Kathy Costa and Cressa Bonnell acting as advisory staff. The students developed the rules and the requirements for membership, and the key is that all members must be living an anti-bullying lifestyle.

The group brings its message to HMS students and those in other schools by taking its skits and presentation on the road. The ABC presented its skit, "Do

the Right Thing," at Atkinson Academy on Jan. 26.

Bonnell said the group focused on "hot spots" at the school during January. "Hot spots" are places where bullying is most likely to occur, and once the committee identified them, the next step was to come up with specific ways to deal with bullying incidents within the "hot spots."

"Each month the ABC students will focus on a specific topic in regards to the

Olweus program and support it in their own community," she said. On Wednesday, Feb 15, the group will make a presentation in Concord to the New Hampshire Association of School Principals for the second year in a row. In March the group will make a similar presentation at the 2012 annual Educational Conference sponsored by the New Hampshire Association of Special Education Administrators, in association with

New Hampshire Council for Exceptional Children.

"Our students will present on 'Students using 21st Century Skills to Do the Right Thing,'" Bonnell said. "This includes technology, collaboration, leadership, community, and critical thinking. They will discuss how their committee started, their continuing accomplishments and their goals for the future."

The ABC mission, as created by the student members, states it is "to cre-

ate a safe and comfortable environment in our school and eliminate bullying through education. Our goal is to help students understand what bullying is and how it affects the victim, the bully and the bystanders. The HMS Anti-Bullying Committee hopes to spread the message to do the right thing and understand that everyone has the right to be themselves without worrying about what other people think."

## Central School Student Council Collects Shoes for Charity

PENNY WILLIAMS  
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - The Hampstead Central School Student Council is sponsoring a drive to collect shoes to benefit Soles4Souls, a shoe charity. The council

members encourage area residents to donate gently used shoes to the campaign.

Soles4Souls Inc. is sponsoring this campaign to collect and distribute shoes to people living in poverty and recovering from natural disasters.

"I wanted to do this shoe drive because I am a runner and I want to see other kids have a chance to run," said Student Council member Adrienne de Almeida. "I also feel bad because there are kids that have scraped up feet that hurt."

"By giving shoes to kids in Africa and other places, it helps prevent foot diseases. Other people should donate gently used shoes so that others can use them," said Student Council member Sam Lewis

Student Council mem-

ber Connor McCormack added, "Kids around the world don't have shoes and they could get diseases or get hurt. I get a good feeling when I help people."

Student Council advisor Barbara Gallant said donations will be accepted in the

main lobby of Central School, now through Monday, Feb. 23. For questions, call her or Assistant Principal Jennifer Scarpati at 329-6326. Any area businesses that would like to assist with mailing costs are also invited to contact the school.

## Routes

continued from page 1

section has been considered problematic, but the response to improving it was always "there's nothing we can do." Last year, after an opportunity arose with SNHPC to investigate the area with the committee, she began initiatives to see whether that was the correct answer.

As part of that initiative, the SNHPC created a report to see whether the town could qualify for a DOT-led Road Safety Audit. The

report was completed in November of 2011 and qualified the town for that work.

The report takes into account annual average daily traffic flows, signage, landscape, accident reports (including type of accident, weather, surface condition, lighting and severity) and other data to give an accurate picture of the area.

According to the report, most of the accidents were right angle collisions in dry, clear conditions; 54 percent were right angle collisions and the next highest type, at 21 percent, occurred when a

car struck a fixed object. There were seven injuries, and 17 accidents that resulted in property damage only. The report determines that most of the accidents were caused by drivers on Route 121 failing to yield, limited sight distance on Route 121, slippery road surface and excessive speed.

A field visit documented in that report notes that a skewed intersection (the roads don't meet at right angles) could be a factor, along with signs hidden by vegetation, utilities and other signs; vision impairment from the hill on the

Stevens Hall corner of the intersection; and low visibility (especially for the blinking yellow light) due to slopes and curves.

The report outlines potential repairs, but much of the meeting on Jan. 20 involved discussing them and why they may or may not be applicable.

Though agreeing that more research needs to be done, the SNHPC report notes several short-term and long-term fixes. These include the installation of flashing light warning signs, trimming trees on the Route 121 approaches, changing the intersection to right angles, cutting back the southwest corner, eliminating the upgrade slope and

vertical curves on the Derry Road approach of Route 102, installing rumble strips and installing traffic signals or a rotary.

Robinson said that short-term, less expensive fixes were considered more applicable for the time being, and that any major work would be at least five years out.

Concern about installing lights or a roundabout include whether there are sufficient rights of way and the difficulty for heavy vehicles to start up again once stopped on the Derry Road hill.

Robinson added that DOT was aware that the intersection represents the center of town and has a historic nature. Complicat-

ing any work to the area are Stevens Hall on one corner, the Chester Congregational and Baptist Church on another and the Village Cemetery on a third.

According to Robinson, making the intersection right-angled was deemed not feasible. The group even suggested resident Jamie Towle's old solution of creating a tunnel in the center of town for one of the roads. DOT engineers said there wasn't enough space for such a project and the requisite opportunities for changing direction or exiting the roadway.

The public is encouraged to attend Highway Safety Committee meetings. The next is set for Feb. 17 at 1 p.m. in town hall.

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# Hampstead Public Library Use Continues Strong

PENNY WILLIAMS  
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD — The Library Trustees reviewed the final data on library usage for 2011 and were pleased to find the numbers remain strong. New Library Director Deb Hiett expressed her satisfaction and said the numbers show how much the residents of Hampstead depend on the library for a variety of reasons.

The total circulation for last year was 73,761. The numbers show 62,849 library visits and 27,761 unique website visits. The library was open for 2,708 hours and received 655 volunteer hours. The meeting room use totaled 729 hours, and Hiett said the number

of hours the study room was used - 1,391 - was wonderful. She noted that there is a sign-up requirement for this room but often this doesn't happen, and she thinks the use of the room is even higher.

Computer use at the library totaled 7,550 hours. Patrons took advantage of museum passes 514 times; audio downloads totaled 1,587, and eBook downloads reached 1,347. Reference material was accessed by 1,527 adults and 326 children.

Throughout the year, the library held 202 children's programs, with an attendance of 4,161. Young adult programs numbered 22, with 254 attending. Adult programming saw 231 programs, with an

attendance of 2,916, making a total of 455 programs with an attendance for the year of 7,331.

The library has 7,372 card holders, with 4,195 of those active for at least three years. That total is composed of 2,141 children, 5,189 adults and 42 non-residents.

In other business at its recent meeting:

- Budget Committee liaison Brian Vass reviewed the criticism leveled at the library's budget presentation during the Town Budget public hearing, as previously reported in the Tri-Town Times. A couple of the Budget Committee members criticized the methodology, where all the operating costs are contained within the single

Trustees line item and not broken out.

He suggested that while the library is a separate entity within the town, it might be a benefit for everyone if there were a way the library trustees' operating costs could be broken out, perhaps in a separate budget sheet attached to the town budget. Trustee Chairwoman Emily Reschberger said that information was presented at the earlier budget reviews with the Board of Selectmen. After a brief discussion, the Trustees said they would take the suggestion under advisement.

- The Trustees and staff plan to review computer use policy as a result of recent incidents reported elsewhere. No problems have occurred at the Hampstead

Public Library.

- Hiett has started to form a long-range planning committee that will include staff, town officials, residents, teachers, business people, library patrons and young adults. The plan is to hold at least two meetings with a facilitator to develop goals, a mission statement and look at surveying what residents want for their library and what they expect the role of the library to be for its patrons and its community.

- Hiett said the library has experienced some minor heating glitches that Difeo Oil and Propane had been called upon to fix. Hiett said Granite State Elevator Co. has come in to do annual maintenance, and two ballasts had to be

replaced downstairs. She also noted the basement is experiencing minor leaking. Trustee John Skidmore said this seepage is not unusual and doesn't usually amount to much.

- Hiett said all of her staff are now considered proficient in one or more of the electronic devices patrons and the library have available and are able to help patrons if they seek help with their electronic devices. She said the State Library had sent a staff member to provide training on all the electronic devices.

- Skidmore reviewed the budget and said the library had run the first 10 days of 2012 with a zero balance, but the first payment has now been received from the town.

# Chester Technology Specialist Receives State Award

MATT RITTENHOUSE  
Tri-Town Times

CHESTER — Chester Academy's technology integration specialist, Sue Kessler, was honored with the 2011 Pat Keyes Technology Educator Award by the New Hampshire Society for Technology in Education (NHSTE).

It's an award that Chester Academy Principal Leslie Leahy said is long overdue for Kessler, who has been hard at work for years, successfully bringing technology into every classroom at the school.

The award is given annually to a public or private pre-Kindergarten to senior college level teacher in the Granite State who has

developed effective units integrating educational technology, demonstrated improved student performance with that technology and shared ideas and initiatives in formal and informal arenas, using both traditional and electronic methods.

Kessler's peers, pleased with the aid she gives them, nominated her for the award.

Leahy said Kessler doesn't do her work for recognition and that the school was proud of her and her efforts.

Kessler said she was unaware that she had been nominated, and receiving the award was an honor because of all the teachers across the state working in the same field. She added that it should not have been

just her who was recognized, but the whole school, because it was their cooperation and efforts at implementing technology that made her work successful.

Though Kessler started by knocking on classroom doors and selling the benefit of technology integration at the school, these days the teachers are brainstorming new methods and integrating that technology in new and creative ways. The teachers are now knocking on Kessler's door, a testa-

ment to the success of her work but also to its reception by fellow staff members.

"They come to me now," said Kessler. "It's so rewarding."

Kessler said it's her goal that the teachers won't need her, and can implement new equipment seamlessly.

Leahy said the work Kessler is doing in Chester is far ahead of many other schools in the area. All grade levels come to Kessler to create ways of augment-

ing what they're doing in the classroom with the technology the school has available. And it's some pretty advanced technology.

Kessler has secured thousands of dollars worth of technology grants for the school, including an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant (federal stimulus) totaling about \$134,000. That grant helped buttress a school-wide literacy initiative. The mon-

ey went to the purchase of interactive whiteboards, laptops and document cameras, three Netbook labs with 25 Netbook computers each, internet access, and printers. And that's just one of the grants she's secured.

The students love working with the gadgets, technology being a big part of their lives, but educators say the tools energize students and prime them for better knowledge retention.

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# TRI-TOWN HAPPENINGS

## CHESTER

### Read for Monarchs Tickets

Children who are 12 years old and under can earn a free ticket to a Manchester Monarchs Sunday home game by reading five books and getting a voucher for a home game ticket. To start, get an official reading log from the Chester Public Library at 3 Chester St. Stop by the library for game dates and more information, or call 887-3404.

### Storytimes

Storytimes at Chester Public Library are Tuesdays at 11:15 a.m. They are geared for children ages 3 to 5, and Mr. Tim will read stories and teach crafts. The Library is at 3 Chester St., next to the Post Office. For more information, call 887-3404.

### Child Find

The Chester School District will hold Child Find clinics at Chester Academy on March 15, 2012, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. The purpose of Child Find is to screen the developmental skills of children between the ages of 3 to 6 (those not enrolled in first grade) who may be in need of special education services. The screenings are completed by school personnel and address motor skills, speech and language, vision, hearing, and pre-academics. If you think your child may have difficulties or a delay in any of these areas, call 887-3621, ext. 146 to set up an appointment. Appointments are required. This service is free and is open to all Chester residents. All results are confidential.

### Co-ed Volleyball

Chester Recreation is offering free adult co-ed pickup volleyball on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. at the Chester Multi-purpose room. Call the Recreation Department for more information at 887-5773 or e-mail: sharon@chesternhrec.org

### Baseball, Softball

Chester Baseball and Softball Registration is open for all divisions for the 2012 season. Information about tryouts for AAA, Minors and Majors will be posted; visit: <http://www.chesternhbaseball.com> and click on the clipboard to register.

## HAMPSTEAD

### Toddler Transitions

On Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 6:30 p.m., the Hampstead Public Library hosts an interactive workshop for parents called "Toddler Transitions." The lecture will cover toilet training, sleeping through the night, moving from bottle to cup, and other hurdles parents and babies negotiate together. The presenters are staff from Ages and Stages Child-care Center. Email [jarden@hampstead.lib.nh.us](mailto:jarden@hampstead.lib.nh.us) or call the library to sign up at 329-6411 for this workshop. If attendees plan to bring their children, let the library know so separate activities can be arranged.

### Boxtop Drive

Hampstead Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) invites the community to join its BoxTops for Education Drive, which provides money to enrich the programs offered to Hampstead Central School and Hampstead Middle School students. Help by clipping boxtops from products and drop them off at collection sites around the community - Hampstead Public Library, Hampstead Central School, and Hampstead Memorial Gym.

### Book Discussions

On Feb. 16 at 1 p.m., the Hampstead Public Library's Third Thursday Book Group will discuss "The Piano Teacher" by Janice Y. K. Lee. On Monday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m., Nonfiction Book Group will discuss "Sea of Glory: America's voyage of discovery: the U.S. Exploring Expedition, 1838-1842" by Nathaniel Philbrick. Copies of both books are available at the library's front desk. Newcomers are always welcome.

### Student Volunteers

The Hampstead Public Library is looking for middle school or high school students who like to work with children and could use volunteer hours to work with toddlers on Wednes-

day, Feb. 8, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The youths will look at books together and do creative play. For more information or to volunteer, call Patty Falconer at 329-6411 or email [pfalconer@hampstead.lib.nh.us](mailto:pfalconer@hampstead.lib.nh.us).

### Babysitter Training

Students age 11 to 14 who want to become a trained babysitter are invited to attend a Babysitter Training class hosted by the Hampstead Public Library during school break on Tuesday, Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required at 329-6411 or email [pfalconer@hampstead.lib.nh.us](mailto:pfalconer@hampstead.lib.nh.us). The American Red Cross Babysitter Training course combines video, activities, hands-on skills training and discussion, and teaches how to respond to emergencies and illnesses with first aid, make decisions under pressure, communicate with parents, and recognize safety and hygiene issues. The cost of the class is \$40. Closing date for registration is Feb. 17.

### Ray Flaherty Athletic Scholarship

The Hampstead Middle School's Athletic Club is offering the Ray Flaherty Athletic Scholarship to a former athlete of Hampstead Middle School who participates in athletics during the senior year at Pinkerton Academy and demonstrates leadership, sportsmanship, and citizenship. The \$500 scholarship is named for retired educator and coach Ray Flaherty. Scholarship applications are available at Pinkerton Academy's Guidance Office and on the Hampstead Middle School's website. Completed applications are due by April 10. The award will be presented at the HMS Spring Sports Awards Night in June. For additional information, call HMS Athletic Director Nancy Benson at 329-6743, ext. 204 or Athletic Club President Angie Gorham at 329-7423.

### Books for Breakfast

On Saturday, Feb. 4, stop in at the Hampstead



## MEET AND GREET

The Hampstead Public Library hosted a Meet and Greet for its new director, Debra Hiett, on Thursday, Jan. 26. Among the visitors were Catherine Robbins, left, Elaine David, Emily Reschberger, Judi Crowley and Eleanor Robie, with Hiett, standing.

Photo by Penny Williams

Public Library between 9 and 11 a.m. for a free breakfast at Books for Breakfast, designed to give families an opportunity to spend time together. The theme is the Superbowl, and the library will have craft supplies, books to share, and breakfast foods, with coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Everyone who attends will be entered in a raffle to win a prize.

### Child Find Check

The Hampstead School District is sponsoring a Child Find Check to screen children between the ages of birth and 6 years of age for possible educational disabilities. If you suspect that your child may have difficulty with speech, hearing, vision, coordination, development or a learning disability that may require special help, the Child Find Check can help answer your questions.

All results will be kept confidential and will only be released to other professionals, i.e. school system or physician with parental consent. The Child Find Check is free to Hampstead residents and will be held Saturday, Feb. 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hampstead Central School. A parent or legal guardian must accompany the child. Appointments are required. To schedule an appointment or for additional information, call Theresa Altsher at 329-6326, ext. 102 the week of Jan. 23 between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

### Hula Program

On Valentine's Day, Tuesday, Feb. 14, the Friends of the Hampstead Public Library presents dancer and teacher Nancy Griffin talking about the hula and its relationship to the language of flowers. She will explain how the blooms and plants of Hawaii are imbued with meaning and how some plants are believed to be the embodiment of ancient Hawaiian gods and goddesses. She is co-director of the Hul 'O Aloha dance and teaches Hawaiian hula and Tahitian and Maori dance at Paradise in the Palms in Kingston. Refreshments will follow the free program, and the Friends regular meeting will take place after the presentation.

### Valentine Raffle

In keeping with the theme of Valentine's Day, TD Bank has donated a raffle basket to benefit the Hampstead Public Library. The basket contains two champagne flutes with hearts, a CD of 18 love songs, and culinary items such as an apron, cookie cutters, heart-shaped cake pan, placemats and napkins, and oven mitts, along with two tickets to "Rockapella" at Pinkerton's Stockbridge Theatre on March 8. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5 and are available at the front desk of the library. The winner will be drawn at the Friends' Hula program on Feb. 14.

### Thrift Shop

The Friends of the Hampstead Public Library's Hollyhock Thrift Shop will accept donations of winter items only until the end of February. Shop hours are Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon at the library.

### Chair Yoga

The Hampstead Public Library presents a free chair yoga class Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 4 p.m. with Maggie Morgan, a certified yoga teacher from the Yoga Room in Hampstead.

### Artists' Open House

Continuing through February, the Hampstead Public Library hosts an exhibit of watercolor paintings by Marcia Harris. A reception for the artist takes place Saturday, Feb. 11, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

### Stories of Knitting

The free "Stories of Knitting" event at the Hampstead Public Library was postponed because of snow until Saturday, Feb. 18, at 12:30 p.m. Kathy Goldner, founder of the audiobook company Knitting Out Loud, will give an hour-long talk on knitting, past and present. She will bring photographs, knitted items and antiques from her collection. Her themes include: lessons from our grandmothers, the courage of

women, and the importance to our culture of domesticity. For more information, call 329-6411 or visit: [www.hampsteadlibrary.org](http://www.hampsteadlibrary.org).

#### Family Memorabilia

The Hampstead Public Library presents author and archivist Melissa Mannon on Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 6:30 p.m. to share information from her new book, "The Unofficial Family Archivist: A Guide to Creating and Maintaining Family Papers, Photographs and Memorabilia." She will discuss organization, choosing what to keep, creating documentation, digitized format, and preserving pictures. Attendees can bring some of their own materials, and they will be discussed if time allows. The event is free.

#### Swedish Meatballs

A Swedish Meatball Supper will be held on Saturday, Feb. 18, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at East Hampstead Union

Church, 225 East Main St. (Route 121A), just south of Route 111. The menu includes meatballs, egg noodles, carrots, peas, cranberry sauce, breads, assorted desserts and beverages. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children under 12, and no charge for preschoolers. The church is chair-lift accessible, and take out meals are available. Dinner proceeds benefit the Operating Fund of this historic church. For more information, call 378-0683.

#### Free Throw Championship

The Knights of Columbus will hold its 18th annual Free Throw Championship on Sunday, Feb. 12 at the Hampstead Middle School, starting at 12:30 p.m. The contest is opened to all boys and girls ages 10-14 in the greater Hampstead area. Participation is free, but the youths must have an application signed by their parent or guardian and proof of age as of Jan. 1,

2012. This event will also be supported by the Greater Hampstead Civic Club and applications will be distributed to its coaches. Participants can also register the day of the event. Each participant will compete in his or her age group, shooting the best of 15 shots. For additional information or forms, call Pat Bracken 329-4356 or Nick Sarbanis 329-6819. Snow date is Feb. 19.

#### Special Ed Parents

The Hampstead Special Education Parent Group meets Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hampstead Middle School library. Nancy Murphy and Kristen Frost will present "Getting to Know Region 10." RSVP to [info@hampsteadsepg.org](mailto:info@hampsteadsepg.org) if you plan to attend. For more information, visit: [www.hampsteadsepg.org](http://www.hampsteadsepg.org) or email: [info@hampsteadsepg.org](mailto:info@hampsteadsepg.org).

#### Needlework Socials

The "Sewing Socialites"

meet on the second and fourth Fridays of every month at the Hampstead Public Library from 1 to 3 p.m., and work on their needlework projects, sharing this pastime with others. Refreshments are available, along with conversation and shared experience. Those who do needlework of any form and at any level of expertise are welcome. No sign-up or registration is necessary. Meetings are Feb. 10 and 24.

#### Soup and Sandwiches

A Soup, Sandwich and Dessert fellowship takes place Sunday, Feb. 19, at noon at Island Pond Baptist Church, 26 North Salem Road. The event is free. Visit: [islandpondbc.org](http://islandpondbc.org) or call 329-5959 for more information

#### SANDOWN

##### Knitting Group

Beginners to advanced knitters are invited to join

the weekly knitting group on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Sandown Public Library.

#### Boater Safety

A boater safety course hosted by the Sandown Police Department and Department of Safety will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 21, at the Ed Garvey Recreation Center, 25 Pheasant Run Road. Cost is \$30 preregistered by Feb. 10, 2012 through the Sandown Police Department. For reservation and additional information, call 887-3887. Attendees will receive a boater's license upon successful completion of the class test.

#### Library Cookbook

The Friends of the Sandown Public Library is preparing a cookbook featuring recipes from the Sandown community. This professionally published cookbook will be dedicated to the memory of Hazel Marlow, a longtime

Friend of the Sandown Library. The Friends invite current and former community members to contribute their favorite recipes. Pick up recipe submission forms at the Sandown Public Library, or call the Library at 887-3428 for more information. Proceeds from sales of the cookbook will help to provide equipment, museum passes, and materials for the Sandown Public Library.

#### Baseball & Softball

Sandown Baseball & Softball Association will hold registration at the Ed Garvey Recreation Facility, 25 Pheasant Run Drive on Saturday Feb. 18, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Children must be 4 years old by April 30, 2012 in order to participate. All new participants must bring their original (no photocopy) birth certificate to register. For more information, email: [Sandown-baseball2011@yahoo.com](mailto:Sandown-baseball2011@yahoo.com).

**continued on page 15**

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# Fourth Graders Recreate Ellis Island Experience

PENNY WILLIAMS  
Tri-Town Times

HAMPSTEAD - Fourth graders in Marisa Hoellrich's class at Hampstead Central School have been touring the Northeast Region of the United States as part of their U.S. Regions Tour in Social Studies. One of the more exciting stops on their journey was Ellis Island in New York Harbor, with the students recreating the immigration experience.

After touring through Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, the fourth grade students found themselves in New York City. Hoellrich sent the students on research projects related to immigration, specifically its causes and impact during the early 1900s. The students prepared mini-projects on

the topic and started planning the culmination of their journey - the recreation of that immigration experience.

The students took on the role of immigrants and put on a simulation of the process at Ellis Island. Art teacher Michael Terrile helped the students create a visual image of New York City as they would have seen it as their ships arrived at Ellis Island in that time period.

Hoellrich asked the students to research their ancestors and see if they had relatives who had come through Ellis Island as an immigrant in the early 1900s.

"Each student had a specific identity, did their own mini-project and wrote an autobiography, making sure to reference the countries their parents or relatives had

come from," she said. "Then each student became an immigrant and went through the Ellis Island immigrant experience by being processed. The parents played the part of inspectors. The students had to stay in character for about two hours, and they did. I was really proud of them."

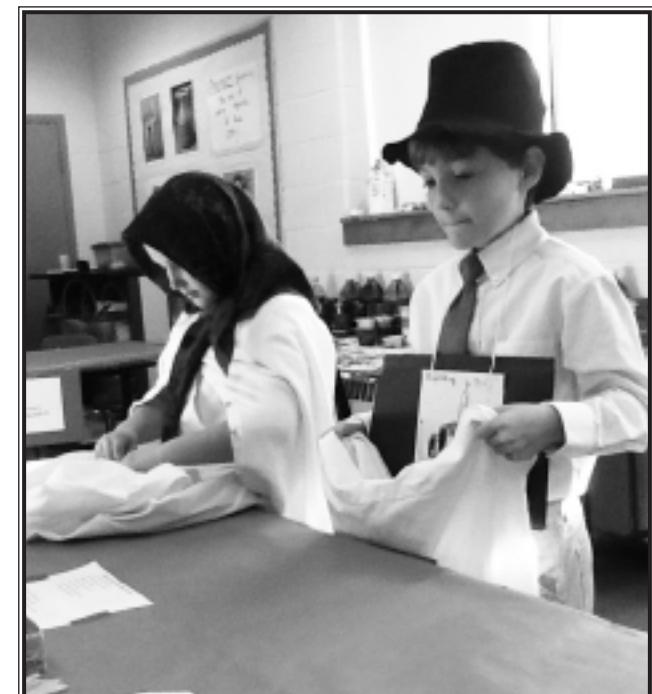
The recreation followed the immigrants' progress. After an arduous sea voyage, the third-class or steerage passengers lugged their possessions onto barges that took them to Ellis Island. There they were tagged with information from the ship's registry and passed through long lines for medical and legal inspections to determine if they were fit for entry into the United States.

The peak years of Ellis

Island's operation were 1900 to 1914, when an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 people routinely passed through the immigration station every day. History indicates the vast majority successfully passed through the immigration process in a matter of hours. However, some had to wait days and even a week. From Ellis Island, the immigrants went into New York City or to railroad stations to take trains to their destinations around the country.

Hoellrich said about 15 parents participated.

"The biggest educational value I think was the social studies content," she said. "The reading, writing and research gave the students a connection to their past. They were able to understand what had happened so were actually able to live it."



Playing the roles of immigrants going through Ellis Island in New York Harbor are Elizabeth Herron and Jeffrey Remillard, fourth graders at Hampstead Central School.

Courtesy photo

## Happenings

continued from page 13

### Master Plan Meeting

The Sandown Planning Board and Master Plan Steering Committee will hold an informal discussion about the ongoing effort to update the town's Master Plan, on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. at Sandown Town Hall. This forum is an opportunity to express satisfaction, concerns and ideas about the future of Sandown. The Master Plan serves as a guiding document for municipal government, the planning board, and others who make decisions for the community.

### Sandown GOP

The Sandown Republican Committee meets Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. at the Sandown Town Hall, 320 Main St. (Route 121A), to hear from Kevin Smith, a candidate for Governor. The committee promotes the Republican Party and assists Republican can-

candidates, and is also a forum for Sandown residents to discuss conservative values and issues at the local, state, and national levels. Visit: [www.srchnhgop.com](http://www.srchnhgop.com) for more information or email: [contactus@srchnhgop.com](mailto:contactus@srchnhgop.com).

### Spring Soccer

On-line registration is under way for the non-profit Timberlane Youth Soccer League's (TYSL) spring season, which runs for six weeks and begins Saturday, May 5, with no games Memorial Day weekend. The season ends on Saturday, June 16. Registration fee is \$40 for U6-U12 divisions and \$50 for U14-U16. Register by Feb. 15 to receive a sibling discount of \$5. Registration ends March 15. A paper registration night will not take place. For additional information, visit: [www.timberlaneyouthsoccer.org](http://www.timberlaneyouthsoccer.org) or call 382-3344. TYSL is not affiliated with the Timberlane Regional School District and is not sponsored by the Recreation Department of the

four district towns - Sandown, Atkinson, Danville and Plaistow. TYSL is looking for someone to work alongside the referee coordinator this season in preparation to take over the position in the fall. Assistant division coordinators are needed for U6, U8 and U10.

### Valentine's Day for Seniors

Sandown Parks and Recreation invites resident seniors to Valentine's Day fun on Tuesday, Feb. 14, at the Edward C. Garvey Recreation Facility, 25 Pheasant Run Drive, starting at 12:30 p.m. with a slice of Valentine's Day cake, romance trivia and the chance to win a door prize. Live musical entertainment follows from 1 to 2 p.m. with Dan Bruscato of DB Entertainment. Show Valen-

tine's Day spirit and wear red. Pre-registration is required for this free event. Call Recreation Director Deb Brown at 887-1872 to leave your name. In the event of inclement weather, call the recreation phone line for a pre-recorded message beginning at 11 a.m. Feb. 14.

## REGIONAL

### Potter's Bowl

Community Caregivers of Greater Derry hosts its seventh annual Potter's Bowl fundraiser from 5 to 8 p.m. Feb. 3 at Promises to Keep, Route 28, Derry. For a \$30 ticket, patrons may select a handcrafted pottery bowl, donated by local New Hampshire artists, and enjoy over a dozen soups donated from restaurants in the Derry

area, as well as breads, desserts, and other goodies. Take-away soup will be sold in the last hour of the event for \$5. The Red Star Twirlers will serve. Musical entertainment and a silent auction with items donated from New England artists and craftsmen will be featured, with auction items including paintings, matted photography, and handcrafted jewelry. Other donations are welcome. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased by calling Caregivers at 432-0877 or visiting the Caregivers' office at the Derry Masonic Temple, 58 E. Broadway during weekdays. For a soup menu,

directions, and a list of auction items, visit: [www.com-caregivers.org](http://www.com-caregivers.org).

### Hope and Blessing

Dr. Mary Pearson, family practice physician and Chief Operating Officer of New Creation Healing Center, 80 Route 125, Kingston, will lead a six-week study on "Hope and Blessing" on Tuesdays starting Feb. 21, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Each study will build on the previous one, but will be designed to be self contained so people can attend even if they miss one or two weeks. For further information, call 642-6700.

## SPECIAL NEEDS MONITORS



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## PUBLIC HEARING CHESTER SCHOOL BOARD

Wednesday, February 22, 2012 7:00 pm  
Chester Academy - Media Center  
Petition Article #8 - To Rescind S.B.2

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